

# USGA Green Section Conference Issue

## Subject: *Economy in Golf Course Maintenance*

The material presented on the following pages has been condensed from papers delivered at the Green Section's Annual Conference on Golf Course Management in New York City. The meeting was held on January 24, 1969, with over 200 in attendance. It is reproduced here as a permanent record of the Conference.

### *The USGA Green Section Award*

Dr. Fred V. Grau, of College Park, Md., was named recipient of the Green Section Award of the United States Golf Association. The award is presented annually in recognition of distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

Dr. Grau is a consulting agronomist and was in Vietnam on a mission for the Air Force at the time of the presentation. The award was accepted in his behalf by Alexander M. Radko, Eastern Director of the Green Section and a former Associate of Dr. Grau.

The award was presented by Hord W. Hardin, of St. Louis, President of the USGA, and Henry H. Russell, of Miami, Chairman of the Green Section Committee, during the Association's annual Conference on Golf Course Management at the Biltmore Hotel in New York City.

Dr. Grau was born on a farm in Nebraska and became a golf superintendent while attending the University of Nebraska. He was graduated in 1931, and then studied for his masters degree at the University of Maryland, where he became a research assistant for the Green Section. He earned his Ph.D. at Maryland in 1935, the same year in which he discovered Penngift crown vetch, a strain of grass used as ground cover alongside highways.

Dr. Grau and C. N. Keyser developed a hydraulic method of seeding slopes that was used on the Pennsylvania Turnpike in 1940.

Dr. Grau served with the War Department during World War II, and in 1945 he was

named director of the USGA Green Section, then located at United States Department of Agriculture's Plant Industry Station in Beltsville, Md. During this period he became associated with the development and release of improved turfgrasses, such as Merion bluegrass, Meyer Zoysia, U-3 bermudagrass, and ugandagrass.

Dr. Grau resigned from the Green Section in February, 1953, and entered a national research project of somewhat broader scope than turf for golf alone.

Dr. Grau has inspired a number of students to pursue turfgrass work as their profession, among them Radko; James B. Moncrief, Southern Director of the Green Section; Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, former Mid-Continent Director and National Research Coordinator of the Green Section; and Charles G. Wilson, former Western Director.

He is a member of the American Society of Agronomy, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Dr. Grau is the ninth recipient of the Green Section Award. Previous winners were Dr. John Monteith, Jr., of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson, of Amherst, Mass.; O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Wis.; Joseph Valentine, Ardmore, Pa.; Dr. Glenn W. Burton, Tifton, Ga.; Professor H. Burton Musser, State College, Pa.; Elmer J. Michael, Rochester, N. Y.; and James L. Haines, of Denver.